Dismantling of PDS

2246. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it felt in some quarters that Public Distribution System has become redundant due to the overflowing granaries of food in the country;

(b) whether Government are planning to dismantle the Public Distribution System;

(c) whether Government are planning to repeal the Essential Commodities Act so that the foodgrains can be moved freely from one State to the others;

(d) whether Government are trying to monetise BPL, PDS cards for cash, or food stamps instead of grain; and

(e) if so, the details thereof as to how Government are planning to organise the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U. V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Central Government have issued an Order on 15.2.2002 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 allowing dealers to freely buy, stock, sell, transport, distribute, dispose, acquire, use or consume any quantity in respect of wheat, paddy/rice, coarse grains, sugar, edible oilseeds and edible oils without requiring any license or permit therefore under any order issued under the Act.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Questions do not arise.

Lifting of foodgrains

2247. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: